



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Administrative Policies and Procedures: 27.34-DOE

Subject: Physical Intervention

Supersedes: DYD 9.14

Approved by:

Effective date: 07/01/90

Authority:

TCA 37-5-106

ACA Standard:

6194, 6195, 6196
9190, 9193, 9194,
9281

I. APPLICATION: To All Employees of Youth Development Centers and Community Residential Programs and Observation and Assessment Centers.

II. POLICY: Employees will use the minimum level of physical intervention necessary to control youth behavior, in order to provide for the safety and security of the youth, other persons, the juvenile facility, all state property and the community. Only physical interventions with a low level of risk for causing bodily pain or injury will be utilized. The utilization of physical handling with the use of force, whether or not it results in any bodily injury to staff or youths and/or damage to state property, and all use of mechanical restraints and confinement for control shall be fully documented and reported and are intended to be used only as temporary control measures and only when absolutely necessary. Physical interventions are not intended and shall never be used as a means for punishment.

III. PROCEDURES:

A. The use of physical intervention by all employees shall be justified only in the following instances:

1. To prevent injury of an employee;
2. To prevent injury of a youth or others;
3. To prevent damage to property;
4. To prevent a clear and immediate escape attempt;

5. To move a disruptive youth or one who fails to obey lawful commands.
- B. The minimum level of physical intervention necessary to control a youth's behavior will be utilized. Verbal commands directing a youth to immediately stop inappropriate behavior or to comply with lawful instructions shall always be used prior to physical intervention.
- C. Additional staff should be called for assistance if necessary. If possible, the staff member needing assistance should notify Central Operations or the shift supervisor.
- D. Immediate medical attention shall be given both staff and youths if any bodily injury was suffered.
- E. Before leaving duty for the day, any employee who has used physical intervention with the use of force will submit a complete written report to the Children's Services Manager of Security/Community Residential Programs or the Observation and Assessment Center Supervisor (Form CS-0031).
- F. The Children's Services Manager of Security/Community Residential Programs or Observation and Assessment Center Supervisor or designee shall be responsible for reviewing all physical intervention reports and making an initial determination of whether the use of physical intervention was appropriate for the circumstances. If it appears that physical intervention was inappropriate, the Children's Services Manager of Security/Community Residential Programs or Observation and Assessment Center Supervisor shall be responsible for investigating the incident. This investigation shall be completed as soon as possible, but not to exceed three (3) working days.
- G. The Children's Services Manager of Security/Community Residential Programs or Observation and Assessment Center Supervisor shall review and sign the physical intervention report and forward it to the Superintendent/Director of Community Residential Programs/Director of Residential Programs.
- H. The Superintendent/Director of Community Residential Programs/Director of Residential Programs shall review the report, ensure that the original is placed in the youth's master file and forward a copy to the appropriate Assistant Commissioner for review.
- I. At times, it will be necessary to intervene beyond the use of verbal commands or physical intervention. This could include:
 1. Mechanical Restraints;
 2. Confinement for Control;
 3. Mace (only at Taft Youth Development Center).

IV. FORM: CS-0031

**(Note: This Policy Cannot Be Revised Without Prior Permission
of Chancery Court, Davidson County, Nashville, Tennessee.)**